

## What did Ralph Ginzburg do?

He got out some sexy publications. Many people like them, many don't, but even those who believe them to be "offensive" do not charge that they are anywhere near the most "offensive" of their kind.

At a time when so many magazines are failing, and when so many survive on sheer tripé, he launched a successful magazine, *FACT*, which is in the great muckraking, spit-in-the-face-of-hypocrisy tradition.

He published and mailed some effective advertisements for his wares, a few of which are, by most standards, in bad taste.

So they are sending him to jail for five years!

We, the undersigned, are sorry about that, not so much for Ralph as for our nation.

Ralph is a decent man and a strong

one. He'll survive jail and probably write a good book there.

But what is this censorship business doing to the rest of us?

What kind of a society is it that permits any kind of murder and sadism in the mass media, but that is so vengeful toward sex? What kind of society permits torture on television programs for children but shudders at "dirty words" or the image of a woman's body?

And what kind of a society imprisons and fines one man, while letting hundreds of others who are doing worse things grow rich?

Are they now going to imprison all the people who print sexy or shoddy advertisements?

Just who is going to jail and who is not?

On what theories is this fantastic conviction based?

Does erotic material *really* hurt people?

Is everyone forever going to take for granted our practice of condoning



bloodshed for children, and recoiling from sex for adults?

Is our nation really in danger of destruction through sex or even through smut, or through bombs?

What is it about us that has resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision to put Ralph Ginzburg in jail, and to reward thousands of purveyors of violence?

Because the mass media do affect people's actions, some of us are not against all censorship. Others of us think the censor is always more dangerous than anything he censors. But we all are against censors who permit most kinds of evil but who convict one man who has done nothing to hurt anyone in any demonstrable way, and who has done much that is useful.

The sick will celebrate. The rest of us will mourn and do everything we can to protest.

## The Committee to Protest Absurd Censorship

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Your financial support will be much appreciated.

The Committee to Protest Absurd Censorship  
Room 307  
507 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017

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